

Good Morning Chairman Essman and members of the State Administration Committee.

My name is Geraldine Roullier I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation here in Montana. We are one of the eight Indian Reservations in our great state.

I am a proponent for HB 562. I am a shareholder of the monies and trust properties managed by the tribe. As shareholders, we elect the tribal council who are responsible for the oversight of funds disbursed to the tribes.

As a result of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, our "cookie cutter" Constitutions do not mandate separation of powers, checks and balances nor transparency for monies received and spent. As a tribal member I own these holdings and want a transparent process.

The tracking of the funds and the website outlined in this bill would allow tribal members to follow the monies sent to the tribes by the state agencies. Tribal members could view the funds and see, in black and white, what funds were received by the tribes and for which programs.

Whenever we ask for accountability of funds, the tribal councils tells us it is none of our business. This bill will open the door for financial transparency for the tribal members in Montana who are also state citizens.

We are no longer the passive stoic Indian, but are aggressive in wanting to know how our money is being spent. As shareholders, we have this elementary right and I urge you to pass HB 562 to assist all Montana tribal members with access to this public information in a searchable website.

Thank you.

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